

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0018] The two illustrations of FIG. 2 will be described jointly below. FIG. 2a shows a joint according to the invention and FIG. 2b a joint according to the state of the art. The reference numbers of the joint shown in Figure 2a have been increased by 100. The cross-sectional plane shown corresponds to the section plane B-B of FIG. 1.

[0019] Again, the joint 111 is shown to comprise the outer joint part 112 and the inner joint part 113 with outer ball tracks and inner ball tracks in which there are received pairs of balls. Between the joint components it is possible to see the ball cage 116 with cage windows. The sectional plane A-A as shown in the illustrations is at the same time one of the planes E₁, E_{1'} in which there extend the center lines of pairs of tracks which receive the balls 114, 114' of the second pairs of balls. The planes E₁, E_{1'} are positioned perpendicularly relative to the drawing plane, i.e. parallel to and symmetrically relative to the longitudinal axes L12, L13, with corresponding longitudinal axes. In contrast to the joint 111 according to the state of the art according to FIG. 2b wherein the circumferential length of all cage windows 118 is the same, with the web width A1 of the webs 117 between the individual cage windows being the same relative to one another and greatly reduced, the joint in accordance with the invention according to FIG. 2a is shown to comprise first cage windows 119 with a circumferential length X1 and first pairs of balls 114, 114' and second cage windows 118 with a smaller circumferential length X2 and second pairs of balls 115, 115'. As will be explained below, first the longer cage windows 119 with the circumferential length X1 are provided with first balls 115 and then the second cage windows 118 having the shorter circumferential length X2 are provided with the second balls 114. By reducing the circumferential length of the cage windows 118, the circumferential length of the webs 117 increases on one side, so that there is obtained a web width A2 > A1. In each case, said increase takes place on one side of each of the webs shown here, so that the strength of the cage as a whole is uniformly increased.

[0020] The different views and illustrations of FIG. 3 show the final phase of the assembly of the joint in the course of which the inner joint part 13 and the ball cage 16 are articulated relative to the outer joint part 12, with the situation of the so-called over-articulation also being shown wherein one cage window emerges from the outer joint part in such a way that the balls 14 can be inserted into the cage windows 18 and into the inner ball grooves 23. The cage window emerging here is a second cage window 18 with a shorter circumferential length $[[X2]]X2'$. As can be seen in FIG. 3c, when over-articulating the joint, the already mounted first balls 15 are displaced in the longer cage windows 19 until they abut, with the length $[[X1]]X2$ of said cage windows 19 being determined by the dimension of over-articulation, which is necessary to be able to insert the balls 14 into the shorter cage windows 18. As can be seen in FIG. 3b, only the short length $[[X2]]X2'$ of the cage windows 18 is required for directly inserting the balls 14 into the cage windows 18 and the inner ball grooves 23 which are positioned close to the articulation plane. Prior to the final assembly stage shown here, the opposed balls 14 had been inserted into their cage windows 18 in the same way. Prior to that, in two first assembly stages, under conditions of over-articulation, the first cage windows 19 were provided in the same way with balls 15, with the circumferential length of the second cage windows as yet without balls 15 at that stage, being of no significance for said assembly stages.